



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

investigation the author succeeded in growing the fungus in pure cultures, and thus obtained sporangia belonging to the genus *Phytophthora*. By means of zoospores, not only lilacs but also a number of other plants were infected, showing close relationship of the fungus to *Phytophthora omnivora* DeBary. The relationship is discussed at length, and although the author is somewhat doubtful in his conclusion, he is inclined to regard the fungus as a species (*P. Syringae*) differing slightly in morphological and biological characteristics from DEBARY'S *P. omnivora*.—H. HASSELBRING.

The problems of life.—In 1900 GIGLIO-TOS published the first part of his work under this title.⁵ The general thesis of the book is that vital phenomena are all referable to relatively simple fundamental causes, and in the first part there is an attempt to set forth a logical and consistent hypothesis of the organization of protoplasm and its fundamental functions. The second part appeared in 1903,⁶ and applied the same method to the phenomena of ontogeny. In 1905 the third part was published,⁷ extending the author's hypothesis to the phenomena of fertilization and heredity. Now the fourth and last part has appeared,⁸ and reduces to relative simplicity the important problems of variation and the origin of species. The theory of the whole book begins with an assumption regarding the molecular structure of protoplasm and the nature of assimilation, and applies this assumption by a logical series of deductions to the most fundamental problems of biology. The logic may be good, but it cannot transform the assumption, interesting as it may be, into a fact. Even a fact is influential only in its own immediate neighborhood, and the author has traveled far beyond the region where an initial fact, much less an assumption, can be serviceable.—J. M. C.

A new flora of California.—Two parts of *A flora of California* by JEPSON⁹ have been published recently. Part I contains the families Pinaceae to Taxaceae and Part II the Salicaceae to Urticaceae inclusive. The text is printed in carefully selected type which differentiates admirably the subject matter on the page. The descriptions, while full and accurate, are not overtechnical; the bibliography and synonymy are presented in sufficient detail to give a ready understanding without being cumbersome, and particular emphasis is given to the geographical distribution of species and varieties. Several well reproduced photographs and numerous original figures materially supplement the text. New species are described in *Cupressus* and *Quercus*. The publication happily combines scientific accuracy

⁵ Review in BOT. GAZETTE 31:275. 1901.

⁶ *Ibid.* 37:151. 1904.

⁷ *Ibid.* 41:450. 1909.

⁸ GIGLIO-TOS, ERMANNO, Les problèmes de la vie. IV^e partie: La variation et l'origine des espèces. 8vo. pp. vii+222. Cagliari: The author, at the University. 1910. fr. 8.

⁹ JEPSON, W. L., A flora of California. Royal 8vo. Part I, pp. 33-64. figs. 13; Part II, pp. 337-368. figs. 5. San Francisco: Cunningham, Curtiss, and Welch. 1909.